

**Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board**  
**Meeting Summary**  
**July 10, 2006**

Members: Alan Bowser, Charlotte Coffield, Loyce Grigsby, Korey Hartwich, Graciela Jaschek, Phil Olivetti, Victor Salazar, Marilyn Seitz, Debbie Spielberg, Mary Pat Spon, Kathy Stevens, Darian Unger, Jerry Yokoyama, Mark Woodard, Mitch Warren, Victor Weissberg.

Members Absent: Eric Hensal, John Evanoff

**Call to Order and Introduction**

Chair Debbie Spielberg called the meeting to order at 7:05p.m., members and attendees introduced themselves.

**Approval of Meeting Summary**

**Motion:** The Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board (SSCAB) unanimously adopted minutes dated June 12, 2006 as submitted.

**Community Comments**

Marcie Stickle reported on the death of Helen Dolan Sherbert, a life time resident of Silver Spring. (copy of Marcie Stickle's tribute is attached to minutes)

Bob Colvin reported that the County Council Transportation and Environment Committee recommended support for the Metropolitan Branch Trail Option 1 to the Department of Public Works and Transportation ( attached is a copy of a letter from County Council President George Leventhal and a memorandum from the Silver Spring Urban District distributed at the meeting).

Debbie Spielberg stated that the SSCAB supported Option 1 and that a letter expressing the SSCAB's support had been sent to County Council President George Leventhal (copy of SSCAB letter was included in tonight's meeting informational materials).

Alan Bowser reported that members of the East Silver Spring Civic Association scheduled neighborhood walks along proposed routes of the Bi-County Transitway with various political candidates and other interested individuals. SSCAB members can schedule a walk with Karen Roper at 301-588-7413.

**County Executive Report**

Paul Folkers reported that:



- Montgomery County Executive Douglas M. Duncan appreciates the support he received from the community.
- Many residents in the County were affected by the recent storms. The County urges residents to sign up for the personal emergency alert system. Go to the County Web page at [www.montgomerycountymd.gov](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov) and click on Alert Montgomery.
- Joseph Adler, Director, Department of Human Resources recently received a national award.
- Montgomery County Department of Economical Development report shows that during FY 2006, 156 companies either came to or expanded in Montgomery County. These companies employ 7,624 people and own or lease 3,436,474 square feet of office space in the County. This Continues the growth and success the County has experienced over the past 12 years. Since 1995, approximately 93,000 jobs have been created in the County, making it Maryland's largest job center. The third business incubator opened in Wheaton.
- Board of Elections is seeking volunteers to serve as Election Judges for the upcoming elections, primary September 12, and general elections November 7. To apply or for more information please call the Board of Election at 240-777-8533.
- County Executive Douglas M. Duncan announced free bus transportation for seniors and disabled residents. From 9:30a.m.-3:00p.m Monday through Friday, seniors may ride free by showing either a Metro senior reduced fare identification or Medicare card, and a valid photo identification.
- County Executive announced that Montgomery County received 37 achievement awards from National Association of Counties.

Mary Pat Spon said Northwest Branch was affected by the recent storms and asked if the County had any plans to control the water near Northwest Branch. Paul Folkers responded that he was sure that the Department of Public Works and Transportation is looking at the areas where there was an impact by the storms, and he would be happy to get information on this particular area.

Phil Olivetti asked what the status of the billboards removal was. Gary Stith responded that some of the billboards were removed this May and the rest should be removed by May 2007.

### **Chairs Report:**

Debbie Spielberg reported that:

- Bi-County Transitway- Executive Board decided that the Transportation and Pedestrian Safety Committee would take the lead. The committee would work with neighborhood associations to develop the next step.
- Budget Committee- Mark Woodard will Chair Budget Committee. The committee would like to get a briefing from Gary Stith on Operating & Capital Budget between now and September to get up to speed.



- Proposed the Retreat follow up sometime after September 12 on a week night for perhaps a two hour session. She asked for feedback from members concerning the date for meeting.
- The SSCAB will not meet in August. Suggested changing next meeting date to September 13 after it was brought up that the scheduled meeting is the day before the elections primary and that some members will not be able to attend. Members should email the availability to meet on September 13.

### **Transportation & Pedestrian Safety Committee Report:**

Darian Unger and Victor Weissberg reported that:

- Larry Cole, M-NCPPC, briefing on MD SHA project on Georgia Avenue (Montgomery Hills) approved by the planning Board.

Marilyn Seitz said she is concerned that MD SHA emphasis is on getting traffic off the beltway would only worsen the existing traffic conditions on Georgia Avenue.

- Barbara Schubert, Save our Trail Founder, gave a briefing on her groups' effort to retain public access to the trail. The trail is North Ireland Drive. It is accessed from Linden Lane in Forest Glen Park, Silver Spring, MD. The Plat describes it as "Rock Creek Stream Valley Park Unit 2, Parcel 10-B, located in Montgomery County. It connects the Sligo Creek Park trail system to Rock Creek Park, and the Capital Crescent Trail. She Told the group that it would be prudent to guarantee permanent public use of this trail by attempting to acquire it and the additional 15 feet of forested land east of the center of the trail.

Victor Weissberg reported that the Transportation and Safety Committee members were concerned that the committee does not have a clear objective concerning the proposed forum on the Bi-County Transitway and questioned what the SSCAB expects to accomplish. He stated that the Silver Spring Chamber of Commerce has taken a position to support a route that comes down the railroad tracks east of Silver Spring, going underground up to Thayer then to Long Branch.

Mark Woodard suggested and Victor Salazar agreed that a briefing on the Bi-County Transitway would be very helpful to members who do not have a full understanding of it. Alan Bowser said that he did not think a briefing was necessary and that all the information that anyone would need on the Bi-County Transitway can be found on their website [www.mtmaryland.com](http://www.mtmaryland.com).

Debbie Spielberg said that the board should have further discussion on hosting a community forum on the Bi-County Transitway.

### **Commercial & Economic Development**

Phil Olivetti reported that the committee met on June 21:



**Draft letter on the Silver Spring Parking Lot District (PLD) to County Executive Douglas M. Duncan.**

**Motion:** (Olivetti, Seitz) the SSCAB to send a letter as drafted by the Commercial & Economic Development Committee on the Silver Spring Parking Lot District.

**Discussion:** Suggested paragraph two be changed so as not to endorse existing law. Korey Hartwich offered to work with Phil Olivetti on the letter.

**Motion:** (Olivetti, Woodard) that the SSCAB send a letter on Birchmere Project as submitted.

**Discussion:** Mark Woodard said he wants to be actively involved with the County on this project. He asked if this can be added in FY08 Capital Budget. Gary Stith said that it is possible. In an off year CIP, there has to be some indication that the project is ready. Alan Bowser suggested a shorter letter. Kathy Stevens said paragraph four expressed the SSCAB commitment to this project. Resident Marcie Stickle said that the area is within the Historic District and the letter should state that. Alan Bowser and Debbie Spielberg agreed with Marcie Stickle. Debbie Spielberg suggested Marcie Stickle email Phil Olivetti suggestions on adding the historic district information to the letter. Debbie Spielberg proposed striking out paragraph three and five from the letter.

**Motion:** (Hartwich, Yokoyama) to amend the existing motion to add a note regarding historic preservation and changes as discussed (14 in favor and 2 abstentions).

**Motion:** to send letter as amended to County Executive Douglas M. Duncan to express strong support to locate the Birchmere, an internationally recognized music hall, to Downtown Silver Spring. (unanimously)

**Neighborhoods Committee**

Alan Bowser reported on the Neighborhoods Committee June 19 meeting:

- He urged board members to support and to participate in the neighborhood committee meetings, as well as Transportation & Pedestrian Safety and Commercial & Economic Development Committees meeting (See summary attached to meeting material for details).
- Korey Hartwich reported that Councilmember Steve Silverman has proposed a resolution on establishing a new Housing Advisory Commission and wondered if a new housing commission would not have the same functions as Housing Opportunity Commission (HOC).

**Proposed Amendments to Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board Bylaws**

1). Elected officers take office at the meeting following the election and 2). Board members cannot hold more than one office.



**Motion:** (Hartwich, Stevens) the SSCAB unanimously adopted the amendments to the bylaws.

### **Town Center Management**

Graciela Jaschek reported that only two members attended the last Ad-hoc meeting. Therefore, a recommendation could not be reached. Graciela Jaschek gave an overview of the pros and cons for the management of the town center by non-profit board of director's model and Korey Hartwich presented the pros and cons of a government model. (see handout)

Victor Salazar asked who will be responsible for maintenance and capital expense if a non-profit board manages the town center. He was told the County through the Regional Services Center.

Alan Bowser thanked Graciela Jaschek for information and stated he liked the non-profit option. Alan Bowser said a non-profit management could offer the opportunity for fund raising, that SSCAB would have a say on who will serve and if it fails it can be resolved to County taking over.

Korey Hartwich said there are five basics on county management, 1). Accountability, 2). Accessibility, 3). Transparency, 4). Dependability and 5). Fund raising.

Kathy Stevens said she has concerns about the level of responsibility of members of the Board of Directors of the non-profit, having already experience non-response for information from two current members.

Debbie Spielberg said she agrees with Alan Bowser and supports the non-profit model. Korey Hartwich mentioned that he had a discussion with Bill Mooney and was informed that the County Council has put in language to stop the non-profit management moving further.

Debbie Spielberg said the town center management still has outstanding issues and asked Graciela Jaschek to draft a resolution to circulate for discussion and vote at September meeting.

### **Briefing on Silver Spring Development and Director's Report**

Gary Stith did not give a briefing/report due to time constraint (copy of Silver Spring Urban District project updates was included in meeting package).

### **New Business**

Gary Stith reported:

- Grand Opening of the Fire Station on July 23, 2006
- Cancellation of design presentation of the Civic Building on July 12.